

CLAIMS

1. A detergent composition comprising from 0.01% to 99.9% by weight of an aromaticalkyl sulphonic surfactant, the balance being one or more other ingredients, other than:
 - 5 (a) if the composition is a solid, then if it is a powder, it comprises a further surfactant in addition to the aromaticalkyl sulphonic surfactant(s) and other than a 10 mole ethoxylate of nonylphenol (preferably other than any nonylphenol ethoxylate); and
 - 10 (b) if the composition is a non-solid then either
 - (1) it is substantially non-aqueous, preferably comprising 23% or less, more preferably 22% or less, still more preferably 20% or less, yet more preferably 15% or less, even more preferably 10% or less, especially 5% or less, 2% or less, or 1% or less by weight of water, eg
15 substantially free from or completely free from water; or
 - (2) it is substantially aqueous and
 - (i) is substantially free from, or contains a hydrotrope additional to, sodium xylene sulphonate;
 - 20 (ii) it is substantially free from, or contains an organic solvent additional to, the group consisting of ethanol and propylene glycol; and
 - (iii) has a pH \geq 6.5, preferably \geq 7.
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the
25 aromaticalkyl sulphonic surfactant is selected from those wherein:

i) the aromatic compound is selected from unsubstituted, mono-substituted or poly-substituted (e.g. di-substituted) monocyclic or polycyclic (e.g. bicyclic) aromatic compounds, preferably selected from benzene and naphthalene, each optional substituent preferably being selected from alkyl, (poly)alkoxylated alkyl and -OH; and

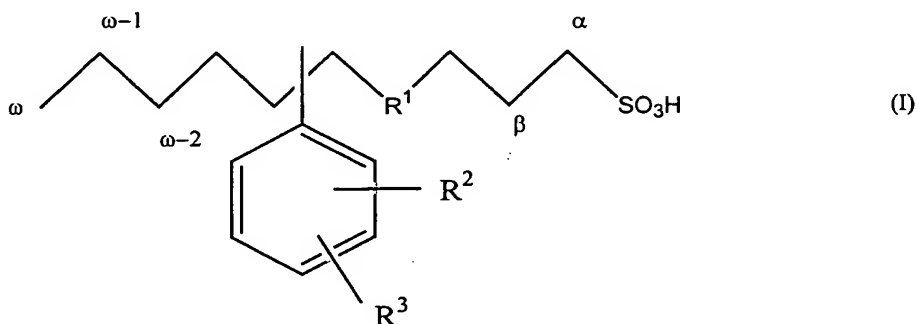
ii) the sulfonated alkyl group attached to the aromatic compound comprises an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of linear or branched alkyl groups of 7 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 8 to 24, more preferably from 9 to 20, still more preferably from 12 to 18, most preferably from 14 to 16 carbon atoms.

3. A composition according to claim 2, with the proviso that the aromatic compound is other than phenyl or naphthalene.

4. A composition according to claim 2, wherein any group attached to each optional substituent in any mono- or poly- (eg di-) substituted aromatic compound is selected from linear and branched chain alkyl groups of 1 to 40, preferably 1 to 30, more preferably from 1 to 20, still more preferably from 1 to 10, and most preferably from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

5. A composition according to claim 2, wherein any alkoxy group(s) optionally incorporated in any alkyl substituent on said aromatic compound are independently selected from ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide, and combinations of two or more thereof, where the number of alkoxy groups range from 1 to 100.

6. A composition according to claim 2, wherein the aromaticalkyl sulphonic surfactant is selected from one or more compounds of formula (I):



5 wherein R¹ is selected from straight and branched alkylene linkages having from 0 to 30, preferably from 1 to 20, more preferably from 2 to 15, still more preferably from 3 to 10, and most preferably from 5 to 7 carbon atoms. R² and R³ are
 10 independently hydrogen or methyl and preferably, the benzene ring is substituted to a substantial extent, eg up to 30 mole %, or up to 35% mole % or up to 40 mole % in the ω-1 or ω-2 position;

and/or salts thereof.

7. A composition according to claim 2, comprising from
 15 0.1% to 65%, preferably from 2% to 30%, more preferably from 4% to 20%, especially from 5% to 15% by weight of the aromaticalkyl sulphonic surfactant.

8. A composition according to claim 1, comprising one or more anionic co-surfactants, the aromaticalkyl sulphonic
 20 surfactant constituting from 0.5% to 99.9%, preferably from

1% to 80%, more preferably from 10% to 60%, especially from 15% to 50%, more especially from 25% to 45% by weight of the total anionic surfactant content of the composition.

5 9. A composition according to claim 8, comprising from 0.1% to 70%, preferably from 1% to 40%, more preferably from 2% to 30%, especially from 3% to 20% of alkylbenzene sulphonic surfactant (in free acid and/or salt form).

10 10. A composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.01% to 50%, preferably from 0.1% to 35%, more preferably from 0.5% to 25%, still more preferably from 0.7% to 20%, even more preferably from 0.8% to 15%, especially from 1% to 10% and even more especially from 1% to 7% by weight of the composition of nonionic surfactant.

15 11. A composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.05% to 10%, preferably from 0.1% to 5%, more preferably from 0.25% to 2.5%, especially from 0.5% to 1% by weight of cationic surfactant.

20 12. A composition according to claim 1, comprising from 1% to 80%, preferably from 2% to 60%, more preferably from 4% to 30% by weight of the composition of detergency builder.